Dear Jim, 8/5/75

Your fascinating 8/2 came today. The enclosed valuable clips include only one I'd received from any other source and that one is barely legible, so many thanks on that, too.

I may have to interrupt this but it is so fascinating I'm going to want to try to explore parts of it with you more. And I'd like your permission to show it to a friend who is a progressive-mind history prof (Masaryk in particular) who will be here before too long, Howard and Jim Lesar.

Lil has a new client for setting up books. Fortunately he is in the swimming-pool busines and is trying to find the leak in ours. This can cause the interruption.

By a remarkable coincidence, re UFO's, we had company last night, a man who was here when we saw what had to have been one. His recollection is startling clear and coincides exactly with ours. He was telling his companion about it.

On Forrestal, I recall quite clearly, if not my source, that he had been troubled by the buying of the Italian election. If anyone other than I reported it from what I was able to put together (quite possibly from overtime with a short-wave receiver that was part of my radio news setup then) I don't remember it. I think my employment there didn't last much longer, either.

The college student, Floyd, to whom I'd mentioned the coincidence, has done some checking on his own. I have his notes. Remarkable stuff in print if one checks back. I may ask another student to try to get copies. I think much of it was NYTimes but I've not read it. Merely listened to his account as his notes refreshed his recall. There is no possibility of reasonable question, his jump, if it was that, was made possible when the purpose was supposedly the opposite. (Like Ruby?) I had a very strong feeling at the time that it had been contrived to make it possible at the least. This turns out to be the case from what has been published.

Comparing this with Olson requires conjecturing. But judging from the politics of the rest of the family of whom I know and the kind of people they are I think it is anything but unlikely that he had had a change of heart over the work he was doing.

Assume this and recall that he was the only one of that group with any strong reaction and an OD is indicated if not certain. Now remember that nothing was done for two weeks, two weeks in which he was in constant contact with those who knew of the administration and the radical change in the man. Two were certainly CIA. These certainly reported back. There certainly had to be concern over the entire affair, especially any part of it being known. This means that on this basis alone immediate and radical care was required, beginning with isolating him so he could not babble. It was not done. The man had top-secret clearance and worked with those who did on projects so classified. Yet nothing was done to protect security against the quite visible threat from a possibly deranged insider with the most intimate knowledge? (There is a base hospital and it is but a half-hour to one of the supposedly better private psychiatric institutions. Then it was an hour or less to Bethesda and perhaps 15 minutes more to Walter Reed, both of which have secure and well-staffed psychiatric branches, a la Forrestal. Then there was the CIA's own staff of shrinks. It is beyond belief that of all the many involved, nobody thought of taking any measures. Or, helping the man and protecting secrets by bringing him around was not a consideration for two weeks if one assumes this was the real purpose of the ultimate trip to NYC. That ain't the CIA of which I know.)

I remember the Masaryk death and my wonder over it then. What was never in the papers is what preceeded it, Newtonian diplomacy: to every force there is an equal and opposite force. The initial force came from us. The USSR wanted unaligned governments in that part of Europe. Remember their Austrian offer we finally accepted? We applied force, they applied counterforce, and Masaryk went. With him went the possibilty, if it applied, of an account of our pressures. I recall nothing of his past or the USSR's

conduct in those days and countries that required him to do himself in. If he were the kind of patriot described and not irrational or delusionary, he had every reason to want to stay alive. (Later those who took over were pretty rought, but as I recall it mostly in their factionalism, as with Kadar.)

FDR certainly is a mystery. He was of an age and had lived a life that could have caused his death but he did so suddely look so much worse and it was so much of a surprise. He certainly had to have been a tough one to hold up as he did to all that he did. I suppose, lacking other helath information, this comes to why didn't he cave in when the pressure was great compared with it was the continuing stress.

There was, aside from other forces, part of the military that was very much opposed to him long before we were really in the war. I think I told you the Malin Craig story. You know the plot to get Butler to ride that white horse. There were those who wanted to use World War II for taking more of the world and he opposed it. His policy was basically opposed to that of an important part of the military on the far east. There is so much of this!

Reminds me of a story. When FDR died another enlisted man whose minor function in OSS I do not recall -he was not in civvies - who with me started collecting a fund for an FDR memorial. We were told by headquarters to stop it. And I mean so fast!!! We hadn't even really gotten started.

Keefauver appeared to be in the most robust health.

(I did not know that raulfia could be fatal. I knew of it from having used it to curb the cannibalism and violent behavior of our helicopter-best chickens. Ciba got FDA approval for another claim based on this work. Synthesized it is reserpine, Serpasil the trade name.)

The Stevenson thing was always very odd. There is one consequence, or at least a change that abruptly followed it. Severeid was with him. Severied changed his political view immediately and sharply.

I'd forgotten about Fitzgerald and Luce. And the significant Clou En-lai connection.

The others are all mysterious. How many of these coincidences can we regard as no more, no other than coincidence? All with the visible timing.

Now that so much more is coming out - and I look forward to reading the new clips on this - you are right that we should keep it in mind.

Before I get to other work, a note on the fine young man Eric Olson. I'd phoned him immediately because I felt the CIA document of which you learned via Pacifica might interest the lawyer and was enough for a move in court. Eric seemed unreceptive when I urged him to urge the lawyer to use FOIA immediately so that there would be culpability in memory-holing records and to force their locating on the filing of the initial request. It was a month before I heard that the lawyer, apparently independently, had decided to. Can you imagine what melted in a month?

In today's mail and unread a few more CIA documents having to do with classifcication and declassification, a few from DJ, a withheld Nosenko page and some moves that appear from the dates as I inventoried them to coincide with the appearance of WW IV! Force and counterforce from Jeff and Mutt?

We've had a washing of the air by rain but the heat is down only slightly. We have had 100° days and a ,ong stretch of near it.

I gave Lil your letter to read. She is as fascinated as I. This whole business is quite provocative.

Thanks and best,